

REMARKS

Claims 12 through 16 are currently pending. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 12 through 24 will be pending. New claims 17 through 24 are added. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments. For at least the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 12 through 24 are patentably distinguishable over the cited art.

As requested in the Office Action (Action), the specification has been amended to reflect that the parent application has issued into U.S. Patent No. 6,715,772 B1.

Claims 12 and 16 are objected to for their recitation of the phrase "according to claim 1". Each claim has been amended to remove this phrase and recite the features of the gasket structure.

Claims 12 through 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art (hereafter "APA") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,492,336 to Barna et al. (hereafter "Barna").

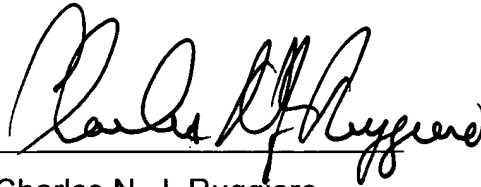
Applicants respectfully submit that the APA and Barna, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest the claimed invention. Specifically, neither cited reference, taken alone or in combination, discloses or suggests a method of venting gas that includes securing a closure fitting having a gasket that comprises a liquid and gas impermeable polyalkylene core having a first side and a second side opposite said first side; a first outer layer being connected to said first side; and a discrete second outer layer being connected to said second side, wherein each of said first and said second outer layers is a gas permeable fluoropolymer, and wherein said first and said second outer layers cooperate with said core to provide gas permeability and liquid impermeability to said gasket, as required by claims 12 and 16.

Accordingly, claims 12 and 16, as well as claims 13 through 15 and 17 through 24, which depend directly or indirectly therefrom, are not rendered obvious by the cited references.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claim rejections and passage of this application to allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles N. J. Ruggiero", written over a horizontal line.

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